

Name: _____

Date: _____

PRE-ASSIGNMENT

Google search:

1. Before doing the Google search below, **write the names** of any physicists you can think of (be honest - don't cheat and look them up beforehand).
2. Google "famous physicist." **Write down the names** of the first five physicists you found.
3. How many **years ago** did the earliest physicist on the list live?
4. How many **women** appear on the list?

Read two biographies, as follows:

- Lise Meitner article (www.sdsc.edu/ScienceWomen/meitner.html) or Jocelyn Bell Burnell (biography.com/people/jocelyn-bell-burnell-9206018)
- One of the following scientist profiles: Claudia Alexander, Deborah Berebichez, Ellen Ochoa, or Shirley Ann Jackson (aps.org/careers/physicists/profiles)

Respond to the following questions on the women from the two biographies:

What are the contributions made by these women? Summarize your response in your own words in a few sentences. Look up anything you don't understand!

What obstacles did the women overcome in their career paths?

In your view, is the opportunity to excel in physics any easier for women now than it was in the 20th century? Explain how, including what is easier and what is unchanged.

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POST-ASSIGNMENT

Respond to the following questions by crafting at least a paragraph for each section:

Based on the class discussion, do you believe society discourages (subtly or obviously) women from becoming interested in physics careers? Why or why not? If so, what do you think could be done to reduce the effect of discouragement?

In what ways do you think societal beliefs about gender have influenced your career interests? Does this influence bother you? Why or why not?
